

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 03737 231257Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 SSO-00 SS-15 L-03 H-01 HA-05
CA-01 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /060 W
-----102491 231303Z /53
O 231220Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7386

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PASS CA/SCS

PASS TO TOM SMITH, DIRECTOR, AF/W, OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, CASC, NI
SUBJECT: DETENTION - AIG REP LEFEVRE

REF: LAGOS 3655

1. SUMMARY: AT 0900 LEFEVRE AND AIIC LAWYER EGBE WERE TAKEN TO A MAGISTRATE'S COURT NO. 1 AND INDICATED ON A CONSPIRACY TO STEAL CHARGE STEMMING FROM AIIC'S 450,000 NAIRA LOAN TO LOCAL COMPANY IN WHICH EGBE HAS INTEREST. LEFEVRE AND EGBE DECLINED BAIL AND WILL BE HELD AT LEAST UNTIL MARCH 30 WHEN HEARING RESUMES. SINCE U.S. CONSUL DENIED DIRECT ACCESS TO LEFEVRE (PARA 4 REFTEL), EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE MAIN OVERT EFFORT TO GAIN INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO LEFEVRE THROUGH MEA, AND IS SENDING SECOND NOTE TODAY. HOWEVER, WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK THROUGH AND WITH AIIC'S RITTER AND EGBE OFFICE. END SUMMARY.

2. THIS PARA CONTINUES LEFEVRE DETENTION CHRONOLOGY BEGUN REFTEL. ON MARCH 22, LEFECRE, ESCORTED BY CID AGENTS WENT TO AIIC OFFICE TWICE (10:30 A.M. TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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12:30 P.M. TO 1:00 P.M.) TO PICK UP DOCUMENTS CONCERNING INVESTIGATION. RITTER/EGBE, WHO SAW LEFECRE AT AIIC OFFICE AT 3:00 P.M, WENT TO CID AT 5:00 P.M. FOR HOPE FOR LEFECRE RELEASE. THEY WERE TOLD TO COME BACK AT 6:00 P.M. TO SEE POLICE COMMISSIONER. AT 6:00 P.M., POLICE COMMISSIONER TOLD RITTER/EGBE THAT CASE HAS BEEN REFERRED TO 'A SUPERIOR' AND WERE TOLD TO RETURN AT

10:00 P.M. AT THIS TIME, THEY WERE TOLD TO RETURN AT
9:00 A.M, MARCH 23.

3. ON RITTER/EGBE'S ARRIVAL AT CID HEADQUARTERS AT 8:30 A.M,
MARCH 23, EGBE WAS INFORMED THAT HE AND LEFEVRE WERE BEING
'ARRAIGNED AT MAGISTRATE'S COURT NO. 1 FOR CONSPIRACY TO
STEAL.' CHARGE REFERRED TO 450,000 NAIRA LOAN BY AIIC
THROUGH EGBE AS AIIC'S ESCROW OFFICER TO A LOCAL COMPANY
OF WHICH EGBE IS A DIRECTOR. WE WILL TRANSMIT NIACT
IMMEDIATE SEPTTEL DETAILING WHAT INFORMATION WE HAVE ON
LOAN. ACCORDING TO RITTER, NEITHER LEFECRE OR EGBE BEING
ARRAIGNED ON CHARGES STEMMING FROM NAIRA 35,000 MINTZER
COMMISSION (ALSO TRANSMITTING PRIORITY SEPTTEL COVERING
THIS). LEFEVRE AND EGBE ARRAIGNED AT 12 NOON. LEFEVRE
CHARGED 'WITH CONSPIRACY TO STEAL' AND EG E CHARGED
'WITH ABUSE OF FFICE.' MAGISTRATE OFFERED BAIL.
LEFECRE AND EGBE CONFERRED AMONG THEMSELVES AND
DECLINED REPEAT DECLINED BAIL. MAGISTRATE GAVE POLICE
SEVEN DAYS TO COMPLETE INVESTIGATION, I.E., HEARING WILL
RESUME ON MARCH 30. THUS EXPECT LEFEVRE AND EGBE
WILL BE DETAINED AT LEAST UNTIL MARCH 30. WE ARE TRYING
TO DETERMINE DETENTION SITE AND WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT
ASAP.

4. EMBASSY CONSUL UNABLE TO ACCOMPANY RITTER/EGBE
OR MAKE SEPARATE REPRESENTATION AT CID HEADQUARTERS
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MARCH 23 BECAUSE OF CID COMMISSIONER'S REFUSAL TO
PROVIDE ACCESS TO LEFEVRE OR GIVE INFORMATION ON HIS
DETENTION DURING MEETING WITH CONSUL MARCH 22 (SEE PARA 4
REFTEL) WE VIEW ADDITIONAL DIRECT REPRESENTATIONS TO CID
AS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. INSTEAD WE ARE CONTINUING FORMAL
REPRESENTATIONS TO MEA. CONSUL WILL HAND DELIVER TODAY
SECOND NOTE TO MEA'S DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS FABUNAI
REQUESTING IMMEDIATE CONSULAR ACCESS. CONSUL, WHO IN YESTERDAY'S
MEETING AT MEA EMPHASIZED DETRIMENTAL IMPACT OF DENIAL
OF CONSULAR ACCESS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT, WILL
REEMPHASIZE SERIOUSNESS OF ISSUE IN TODAY'S MEETING.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

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